

Appl. No. 10/782,855

28. (new) The self-closing prestressed tubular belt according to claim 11, wherein the route has a curvature radius of less than ten times the diameter of the belt.

REMARKS

5 Claims 1-26 are pending in the application, however, the previously submitted Amendment B, which has not been acted upon by the Examiner, canceled claims 12-26.

 The present amendment is being filed in light of the constructive comments made by the Examiner during a telephone interview. Applicant thanks
10 the Examiner for his time and these comments.

 During the telephone interview, the Examiner objected to the "configured to" language contained in claim 11. Claim 11 has been amended to read as a means-plus-function claim under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 6. Applicant has further added claims 27 and 28 which simply contain more restrictive references
15 to the ratio between the conveyor path bending radius and belt diameter. Support for these claims can be found in the originally filed application at paragraph [0024].

 The Examiner also noted that there was no appertaining figure related to the elements claimed in claim 11. Applicant has herewith added Fig. 31 to the
20 application and the associated descriptive text in the Specification. Support for this amendment can be found in the originally filed application at paragraph [0024] and no new matter has been added.


Appl. No. 10/782,855

CONCLUSION

Inasmuch as each of the objections have been overcome by the amendments, and all of the Examiner's suggestions and requirements have been satisfied, it is respectfully requested that the present application be
5 reconsidered, the rejections be withdrawn and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned representative if there are further issues remaining with this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being telefaxed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office telephone number 571-273-8300 and addressed to: Mail StopAmendment Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA
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